

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An injection needle comprising a puncture section having a needle point capable of piercing a living body, a proximal end section having outside and inside diameters greater than said puncture section, and a tapered section interconnecting said puncture section and said proximal end section, wherein

said tapered section provides puncture resistance smaller than said puncture section.

2. (Original) The injection needle according to claim 1, wherein said tapered section has an outer profile having an angle ranging from 0.5 to 2 degrees with respect to a line parallel to a central axis of said injection needle.

3. (Currently Amended) The injection needle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said tapered section has outer and inner profiles each having a tapered structure.

4. (Original) A liquid introducing instrument for being mounted on a liquid inlet port formed on a distal end of a liquid container that is capable of holding a liquid therein, comprising:

an injection needle having a puncture section having a needle point capable of piercing a living body, a proximal end section having outside and inside diameters greater than said puncture section, and a tapered section interconnecting said puncture section and said

proximal end section, wherein said tapered section provides puncture resistance smaller than said puncture section; and

a base body supporting said injection needle;

wherein said puncture section and said tapered section protrude from said base body.

5. (Original) The liquid introducing instrument according to claim 4, wherein said injection needle has a liquid introducing needle section that can communicate with the interior of said liquid container.

6. (Currently Amended) The liquid introducing instrument according to claim 4 ~~or~~ 5, wherein said tapered section has an outer profile having an angle ranging from 0.5 to 2 degrees with respect to a line parallel to a central axis of said injection needle.